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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/074,755	02/13/2002	Graham Roderick Lodge	P01,0588	9272
26574	7590	02/14/2006	EXAMINER	
SCHIFF HARDIN, LLP PATENT DEPARTMENT 6600 SEARS TOWER CHICAGO, IL 60606-6473				HUFFMAN, JULIAN D
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2853		

DATE MAILED: 02/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/074,755	LODGE, GRAHAM RODERICK
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Julian D. Huffman	2853

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-7 and 9-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 8 and 16 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 13 February 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/12/02, 6/12/02, 12/8/03</u>	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1-13 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 1, step (d), it is respectfully suggested that the language "wherein steps a-c are repeated while" be inserted before the word "varying". The time interval cannot be varied if the operations are not performed multiple times.

A similar correction is required for claim 9.

Claims 2-8 are objected to by way of their dependency from claim 1.

Claims 9-13 are apparatus claims, however, they recite method steps. Further, claim 10 refers to "an apparatus method".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 3-5 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 3 includes the language "varying said waiting time interval so that a relative motion according to steps (a), (b) and (c) between a second printhead and a second image carrier, without taking the variation of said waiting time interval into account, has a likelihood that a longitudinal offset along said first direction will arise between said first partial image and said second partial image on said second image carrier which is of a detectable size".

It is not clear how a second printhead and second image carrier could perform steps a-c above since steps a-c are recited in accordance with a first printhead and a first image carrier. The second printhead and second image carrier are outside of the scope of the method claim, which is directed solely to "a printhead and an image carrier", not multiple printheads and image carriers.

Also, the language "likelihood" is indefinite.

Claim 11 suffers from similar deficiencies as claim 3 above.

Claims 4, 5, 12 and 13 are rejected by way of their dependency from claims 3 and 11.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-7 and 9-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamasawa (U.S. 5,800,082).

Yamasawa discloses:

With regards to claim 1, a method for generating a print image on an image carrier composed of a first partial image and a second partial image disposed transversely offset relative to a first direction (fig. 11a), comprising the steps of:

- (a) generating a relative motion between an ink droplet-ejecting printhead and said image carrier along said first direction for generating said first partial image on said image carrier;
- (b) generating a transverse offset between said printhead and said image carrier in a second direction proceeding transversely to said first direction;
- (c) generating a relative motion between said printhead and said image carrier along said first direction for generating said second partial image on said image carrier (column 4, lines 60-67); and
- (d) varying a waiting time interval between an end of printing in step (a) and a beginning of printing in step (c), according to a prescribed function (fig. 9, a waiting time W1 is implemented, the waiting time being a waiting time after one-band printing, or after printing during one pass, column 6, lines 1-10, and the waiting time is implemented or increased/adjusted based on a temperature of the printhead during printing such that the waiting time interval is variable according to a prescribed function since it is selected/calculated based on the environment temperature and a time at which the temperature increases to a certain amount, column 9, lines 29-32).

With regards to claim 2, a method as claimed in claim 1 comprising employing a random function as said prescribed function (since the waiting time is set based on the temperature and the temperature is a randomly detected value, and the waiting time is further increased if it is insufficient to provide a reduction in temperature, the waiting time may be said to be a random function).

With regards to claims 3-5, a method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said printhead is a first printhead and wherein said image carrier is a first image carrier, and wherein step (d) comprises varying said waiting time interval so that a relative motion according to steps (a), (b) and (c) between a second printhead and a second image carrier, without taking the variation of said waiting time interval into account, has a likelihood that a longitudinal offset along said first direction will arise between said first partial image and said second partial image on said second image carrier which is of an optically detectable size detectable with the naked eye (if the waiting time is not implemented, ink may not be ejected due to an increase in temperature, column 5, lines 9-15, and this would cause a visible gap between bands).

With regards to claim 6, a method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said prescribed function varies said waiting time interval in multiples of a variation interval (any value selected as the waiting time may be said to be a multiple of a variation interval, for example, a waiting time interval of .39 seconds is equal to a multiple of .39 x 1).

With regards to claim 7, a method as claimed in claim 6 wherein said prescribed function varies said waiting time interval in said multiples of said variation interval from

print image-to-print image (similarly, a waiting time interval of, for example, .5 seconds is another multiple, .5 x the variation interval of 1) .

With regards to claim 9-15, Yamasawa discloses an apparatus for performing the above operations, including an ink drop-ejecting printhead (fig. 11a, element 1), a printhead positioner (column 4, lines 60-67) and a time control unit (3, column 4, lines 28-30).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 8 and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but may be allowable if rewritten to overcome objections outlined above and in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julian D. Huffman whose telephone number is (571) 272-2147. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:00a.m.-6:30p.m. Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Meier can be reached on (571) 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Julian D. Huffman
10 February 2006